

U.S.S.N: 10/027,982

Supplemental Response to Advisory Action dated September 2, 2003

REMARKS

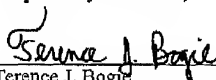
Claims 7-14 and 17-19 are now pending in this application. In the Advisory Action dated September 2, 2003, it was noted that the amendments made in applicants' response to the Final Rejection dated May 16, 2003 filed on August 7, 2003 were not entered because they did not place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal. A response to the Advisory Action was filed on September 10, 2003 wherein applicants requested cancellation of claim 16, amendment of claims 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13, and addition of new claims 23-25. However, telephone conversations with the Examiner on September 10, 2003 indicated that the amendments made in applicants' response to the Advisory Action filed on September 10, 2003 would not be entered. The reasons being that the amendments did not comply with the rules for making amendments under 37 CFR 1.121, namely, claims 20-22 contained the wrong status identifiers, and the amendments, if entered, would raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. In order to expedite prosecution of the application, applicants have canceled claim 16 and amended claims 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 in the manner indicated in the Final Rejection dated May 16, 2003 and the telephone conversations with the Examiner on September 10, 2003.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 and 1.17 that may be required in filing this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-3880.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference with the undersigned would facilitate prosecution of this patent application, the Examiner's call would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,


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Please forward all future correspondence relating to this application to:

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